

STATE OF WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
Public Notice of an Application to Begin a Diversion of Great Lakes Water

October 10, 2021

The Village of Somers (Village) submitted a straddling community diversion application to the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to begin a diversion of water from Lake Michigan to an area outside of the Great Lakes Basin.

Applicant: Village of Somers Water Utility, Jason Peters, P.O. Box 197, Somers, WI 53171

Proposal: The Village has applied to DNR for permission to divert up to an annual average of 1.2 million gallons per day of Lake Michigan water to areas outside the Great Lakes Basin. All water proposed to be diverted, less an allowance for consumptive use, would be treated and returned to Lake Michigan via the Kenosha wastewater treatment facility. The Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact (Compact) prohibits diversions of Great Lakes water, with limited exceptions, such as exceptions for a “straddling community” if requirements under Wisconsin Statutes s. 281.346 (4)(c) are met. Under the Compact, a “straddling community” is one whose boundaries are partly within the Great Lakes basin and partly without, but wholly within a county at least partly within the Great Lakes basin. The Village meets the definition of a straddling community.


Application Review: DNR will review the application materials submitted by the Village. DNR’s review will include a minimum 30-day comment period (referenced below) and a summary of public comments. Following this process, the DNR will either approve or deny the Village’s diversion application. You can review the application materials on-line at: dnr.wisconsin.gov keyword search “[Somers Diversion](#)” or request materials at the address below.

Public Comments: Persons wishing to comment on the diversion application should do so by close of business on November 30, 2021. Comments should be sent to: DNR, Bureau of Drinking and Groundwater DG/5, Attn: Shaili Pfeiffer, P.O. Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707-7921, Comments may also be submitted electronically to: DNRSomersDiversionComments@wisconsin.gov

Public Informational Meeting and Hearing: Pursuant to Wis. Stat. s.281.346 (9)(d), DNR will hold a public hearing to receive public comments on the application. A public information meeting will be held November 10, 2021 starting at 6:00 pm, immediately followed by a public hearing. The meetings will be held remotely via [Zoom](#). Register for the meeting at dnr.wisconsin.gov keyword search “[Somers Diversion](#).” Reasonable accommodation, including the provision of informational material in an alternative format, will be provided to qualified individuals with disabilities upon request.

STATE OF WISCONSIN
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

For the Secretary

By 
Steven Elmore, Director
Bureau of Drinking Water and Groundwater

10/07/2021
Date